

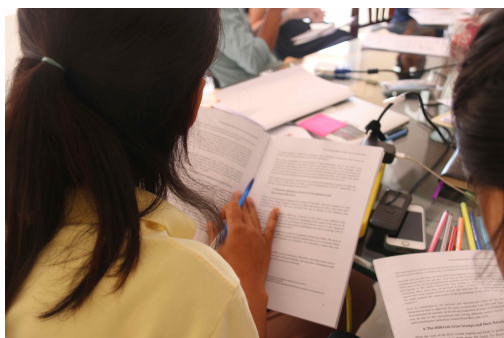
Handa Center's 'Community of Practice': Teaching Human Rights and Research



Saturday 27 May 2017 – 9 AM - 11:30 AM
Topic: Teaching Human Rights and Research

Last weekend the WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice's Cambodia Programs held the second session in its new 'community of practice' series. On Saturday 27 May 13 law lecturers and legal professionals from different universities gathered at the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law (CSHL) at the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE). Participants came from a range of backgrounds and currently teach at universities in Phnom Penh including Paññāsāstra University, RULE, and the University of Cambodia. The main objective of this session was to explore experiences and challenges in human rights research, introduce new learning methodologies and learn more about how the CSHL supports human rights research.

Mr. Soy Kimsan, Director of CSHL, opened the session by introducing the background and current programs of CSHL in Cambodia. The CSHL was created in 2014 with joint support from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) Cambodia and the English Language Based Bachelor of Law (ELBBL) Program at RULE. The Center aims to build academic and legal capacity among the young generation in Cambodia and throughout ASEAN by engaging in academic research, as well as providing educational and training resources in the areas of fair trial rights, humanitarian and human rights law.



Following the introduction about CSHL, Mr. Tay Lina, Acting Director of the Handa Center's Cambodia programs introduced learning activities in teaching human rights and research. As a warm-up, participants were asked to brainstorm challenges they had encountered when either conducting their own research or teaching research methodology to students. They were then asked to pin their notes onto a

flowchart of the main steps in research methodology in order to find out which were the most common challenges faced by the group. Together the group then discussed ways to tackle those challenges. Mr. Tay suggested student-centered and interactive activities were the best way to encourage students to research. As one example, Mr. Tay introduced the group to De Bono's Six Hat Thinking as a way to inspire different perspectives in problem solving. In groups the participants then worked through the six different ways of thinking assigned to each colored hat before returning to the group as a whole and sharing their findings.



After a short coffee break, Ms. Ly Ratana, a researcher at the CSHL and lecturer at RULE, presented her paper "Prosecuting the Khmer Rouge: Views from the Inside," recently published by the International Nuremburg Principles Academy. As part of her research for her paper, Ms. Ly personally interviewed 58 people from different groups affected by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, including survivors, experts, lawyers and NGO workers. Ms. Ly presented her research methodology to the rest of the cohort and talked about challenges she faced and new data analysis methods she would recommend.

Before the session closed, CSHL librarian Ms. Tuy Sophorn gave a presentation about the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law library and the various search tools and functions available there to research human rights topics. The library is open to RULE students and interested academics to visit in person, with a wide variety of books and online tools such as the Oxford Academic Journal and Westlaw Legal Research Database to assist in study.



These sessions are envisioned as an opportunity for young law professionals and educators to come together to share ideas and support each other. A series of three more sessions is planned over the coming months.

The next Community of Practice session will be held on Saturday **24 June 2017**. To join the Community of Practice or for more information please contact Mr. Tay Lina via email on lina.tay@handacentercambodia.org or by phone at (855) 968 181 145.